

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

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NSC-05 SS-15 OMB-01 L-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /066 R

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAID, VN

SUBJECT: BAC MAI HOSPITAL FUND

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN THE EVENT PRESS QUESTIONS ARISE AS A RESULT OF RECENT ARTICLES ON THIS SUBJECT.

BEGIN TEXT: QUESTION: DOES THE SHIPMENT OF PRIVATE U.S. AID TO THE BAC MAI HOSPITAL IN HANOI INDICATE A SOFTENING OF THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS AID TO NORTH VIET-NAM?

ANSWER: OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS APPROVED COMMERCE AND TREASURY LICENSES COVERING THE SHIPMENT OF LIMITED QUANTITIES OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO NORTH VIET-NAM BY VARIOUS PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. THE LICENSING OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE BAC MAI HOSPITAL WAS AMONG THESE TRANSACTIONS. SUCH LICENSING OF HUMANITARIAN AID SHIPMENTS TO

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NORTH VIET-NAM DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE OF U.S. POLICY

TOWARD NORTH VIET-NAM. AS FOR OFFICIAL U.S. AID TO HANOI,
OUR POSITION REMAINS THAT WE CANNOT MOVE FORWARD WITH AN
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AS LONG AS NORTH VIET-NAM PERSISTS IN
MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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